

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 7th, 2022 7:00pm

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Ellen Keene, Rich Phillips, Wes Cate, Bob Atchinson

Public: Mike Xenakis, John Morris

-Public comments

-Announcements

-VECAN has been doing a weekly webinar. Nick forwarding along as they come in.

-Bob highlighted an effort for CT energy yards, may /may not be an interest for up here.

-Nick to add link.

-March 16th - noontime webinar - Results of survey of energy committees.

-Nick to add link.

-Approval of previous minutes

-Motioned and approved.

-Agenda modifications

-None.

-Business:

-ARPA funds:

-Rich mentioned that the town has around ~\$375k for allocation to various projects. The Select Board is working on how to allocate this money, so if there are project ideas they need to get moving. The projects need to be developed far enough to get costs on them by December of 2024, so there is some time still. Final costs paid by December of 2026.

-Bob and Rich have some good information about what is applicable for this money.

-Per Rich, the League of Cities and Towns has been working to develop rules that towns should follow for these monies. It sounds like when the final rules come out, there will be very few or no restrictions.

-Community solar

-Ellen gave an update. After the last meeting, she reached out to John about the project he's working on.

-John gave an update on the project he has in mind. Norwich Solar was investigating, but found wetland concerns, so declined to use the property. They are still interested in a project, but don't have a partner at this time. They are installing a 15kW array, but are open to a larger project.

-Rich shared a link to the Peacham Energy Committee's community Solar project.

-<https://www.wecomunitysolar.website/?emci=4f9fe3de-2f85-ec11-94f6-281878b85110&emdi=bcf3f97e-c785-ec11-94f6-281878b85110&ceid=5992914>

-[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SQv\\_2L2GLEBcoKYUN8dmTEwX0IEuna6VtKCQ4L8z\\_5Y/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SQv_2L2GLEBcoKYUN8dmTEwX0IEuna6VtKCQ4L8z_5Y/edit?usp=sharing)

-John expressed interest in helping out with pursuing the Peacham approach, or something similar. Ellen, Rich and Wes as well.

-Ellen is going to send an email to coordinate a subcommittee meeting.

-What renewable energy project could take advantage of the Rural Energy Pilot Program grant?

-[Rural energy pilot program](#)

-Charging station at OSC

-Bike path

-Solar roof on the picnic shelter

-Replacing diesel equipment with electric equipment (e.g. lawn mowers, etc.)

-School buses?

-“District heat” between OSC and the garage.

-Gas stove to electric

-Microhydro for water off Folsom hill for the power from the village water.

- Village water treatment could be more efficient
- OSC heating and cooling upgrade (i.e. heat pumps for air conditioners)
- Backup battery storage and solar.
- Nick to push this a bit. Down-select from this list, based on eligibility criteria of the program and interest.
- Letter of intent is due on April 11th, so Nick to work on this.
- Marshfield municipal solar update
- Nick asked the question about should the town become an offtaker for its remaining 7000kWh per year.
- John thought this could make sense from a business perspective, especially if the town can get out of the commitment.
- Wes thought that in terms of emergencies and disasters and cyber shutdown of the grid, owning the physical panels on the property is better.
- Anne though the USDA grant could be used for solar and battery backup for the OSC.
- Rich suggested that if there were a community solar for Marshfield, the town could become an offtaker.
- Bob thought putting solar on the picnic shelter would be the way to go.
- Bob also cautioned about using an installer that is selling the RECs for the installation.
- Nick will talk to the Select Board and try to pin them down on only one, or two, of the above paths to pursue.
- Grant opportunities
- No one is aware of much here yet. Rich seems to recall some opportunities, but he will need to look them up and share the links.
- Climate Action Plan (legislative update) and spin-off legislation
- Transportation bill update
- Rich is looking at this a bit, seems there is funding for charging stations and a lot of other good stuff.
- Bill is likely still in committee.
- Bill H715 is out of committee, and VPIRG is asking for people to voice their support.
- Weatherization history and discussion
- Nick gave a brief history of weatherization efforts in the town, and some work that's been done.
- Ellen gave a brief summary of the rental / landlord weatherization work from last year. We met with one person, but no other responses.
- Rich mentioned that for home weatherization, state funds are covering a lot of work. The Select Board would have to decide to allocate funds in this way, and even might have this be \$1000 or less.
- Mike mentioned that the company he works at can't do work after an audit because they're so busy.
- Workshop that Bob attended.
- The workshop was talking about using the community action program to expand low-income residents' energy and financial efficacy. They shared some examples which were powerful. They will be using energy coaches to help folks, and they are using some innovative ways to contact people.
- In general looks like a good program, but details are still being fleshed out. Looking for opportunities where they exist.
- Bob mentioned that getting work done (enough people to do all the work) is becoming a challenge.
- Plainfield Updates
- From the Select Board: the town has received \$188k, maybe doubled to ~\$375k. They are looking for members of the Plainfield committees to help with how to distribute the money. Bob is hoping to get some solar out of this, as well as municipal weatherization opportunities.

Next meeting: April 4, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3332233374?pwd=M0NJamtVRERVk2Z5TFdWRIJ5a1RUZz09>

Meeting ID: 333 223 3374

Passcode: 124891

Or call zoom by phone:

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